I EXPLAINED EVERY SINGLE REASON
WHY I HAD TO GO ON LIVING.

I BEGGED HIM,
PITIFULLY AND PATHETICALLY,

I THOUGHT HE MIGHT TAKE
PITY ON MY SITUATION.

I WONDERED IF I MIGHT BE ABLE
TO EARN SOME COMPASSION.

HOWEVER...

SO,
WHAT HAVE YOU BROUGHT FOR ME?

HE WAS COLD-HEARTED.

FRIDAY
FORBIDDEN TALES
禁曜日

084. THE TRADING CENTER (4)

I HAVE NOTHING TO SELL. NOTHING AT ALL,
NO MATTER HOW HARD I THINK.

I WASN'T SMART OR GOOD-LOOKING.
NOR DID I HAVE THE PASSION TO OVERCOME THOSE. NOR I WAS THE THE VERY LUCKY PERSON.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ABOUT ME THAT ANYONE ELSE WOULD WANT.

I WAS WORTHLESS NOW AND BEFORE.

OR PERHAPS, COULD I WORK HERE? I'LL WORK HARD... SO JUST GIVE ME THE MINIMUM WAGE.

YOU.
HAVE FAILED.

COLDLY, HE TOLD ME.

BUT YOU NEVER INVESTED IN YOURSELF.

"I TOLD YOU,
YOU MAY BUY WHATEVER YOU WANT IN
EXCHANGE FOR SELLING YOUR LIFE."

"SOME PEOPLE HAVE PURCHASED INTELLIGENCE AT THE EXPENSE OF THEIR PRECIOUS LIFE,"

"SOME HAVE BOUGHT BEAUTY,"

"OTHERS HAVE BOUGHT PASSION,
OR TALENT."

"THERE ARE BASICALLY TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE."

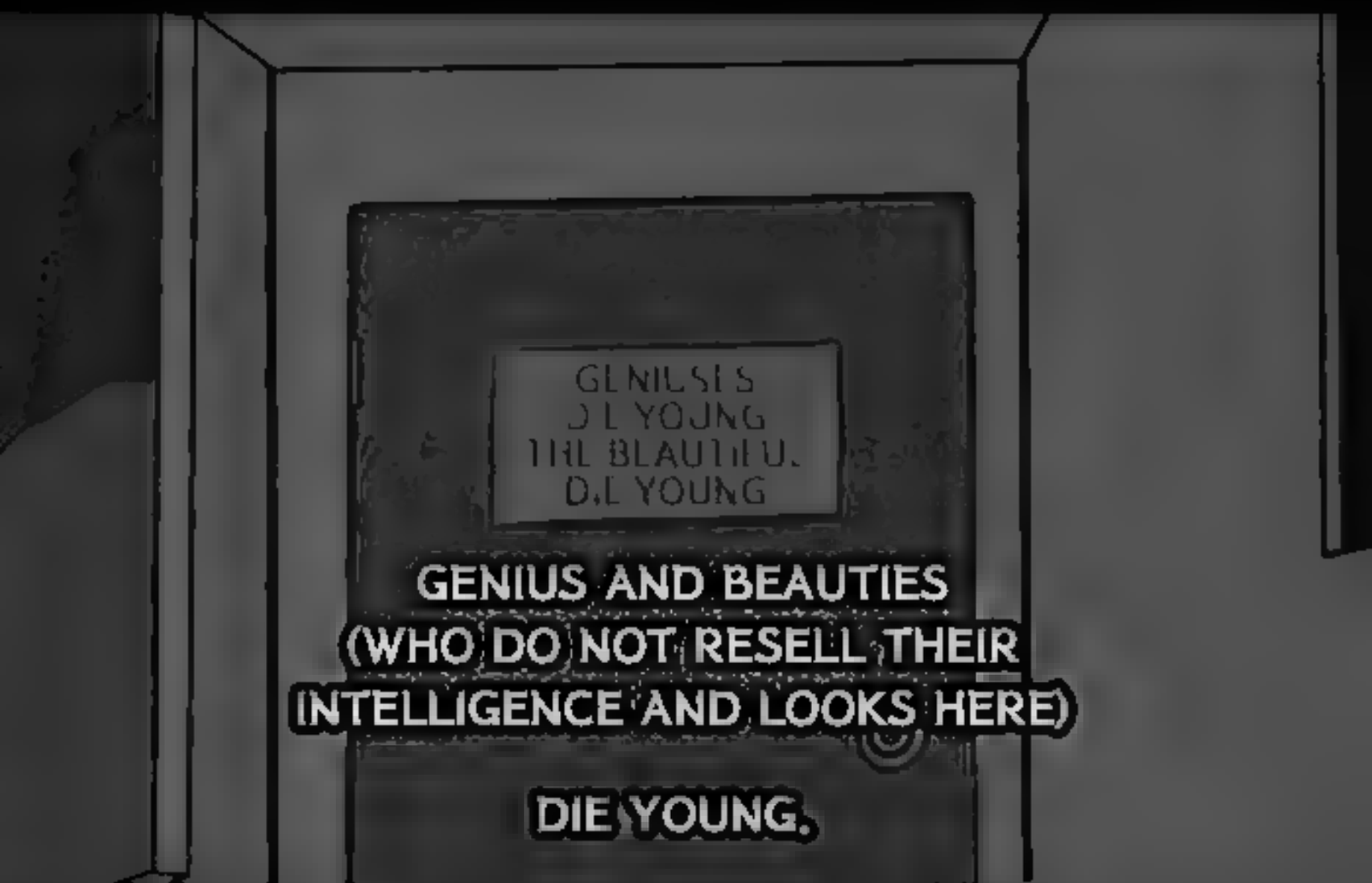
THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE YOU,
WHO SIMPLY WASTE THIS OPPORTUNITY.

"AND THEN,"

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO INCREASE THEIR OWN VALUE AND THEN RESELL IT HERE.

I REALIZED

WHY NOT ALL GENIUS,
OR BEAUTIES, DIE YOUNG.


GENIUSES
DIE YOUNG
THE BEAUTIFUL
DIE YOUNG
GENIUS AND BEAUTIES
(WHO DO NOT RESELL THEIR
INTELLIGENCE AND LOOKS HERE)
DIE YOUNG.

THIS PLACE ISN'T UNFAIR.

IN FACT,
IT'S A PLACE WHERE
YOU CAN BUY A SECOND LIFE.

IT'S A ROOM WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO PERHAPS
EVEN RESET THE STARTING LINE FOR YOUR LIFE.

THE THING ABOUT MONEY, YOU SEE.

"IT'S ONLY WORTH AS MUCH PAIN AS YOU'RE WILLING TO INVEST."

EVEN THE TALENTS, PASSION, THE LOOKS AND PAIN ALSO ARE THE VALUES EARNED BY EXPENSES.

EVEN YOUR LIFETIME IS ALSO ATTAINED BY YOUR EFFORTS, INSTEAD OF PREDETERMINED FATE.

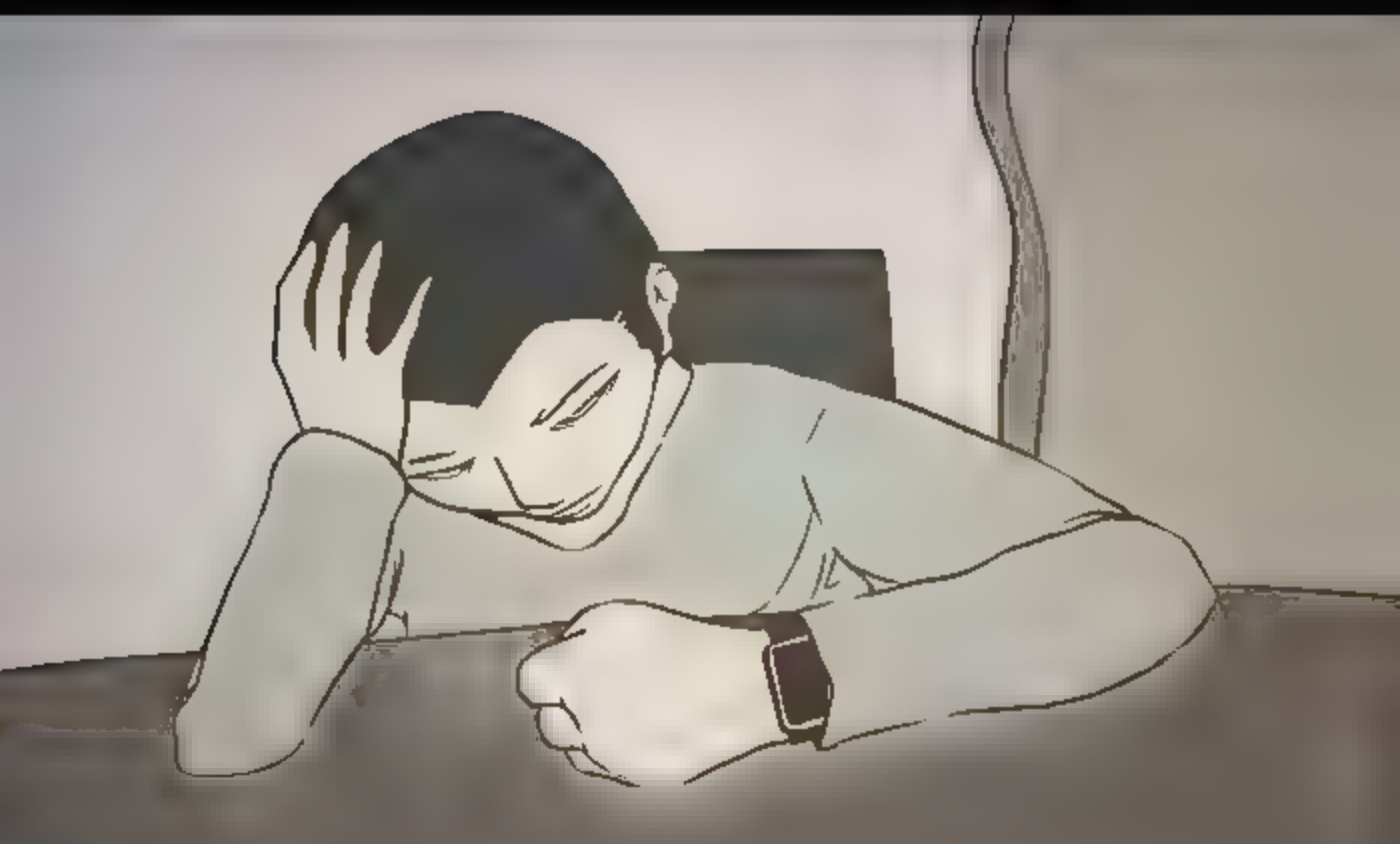
"THIS IS A SACRED PLACE
FOR THOSE WILLING TO INVEST
IN THEMSELVES TO INCREASE THEIR OWN VALUE,

THIS IS A TRADING CENTER FILLED WITH
THE BENEVOLENCE OF GOD,

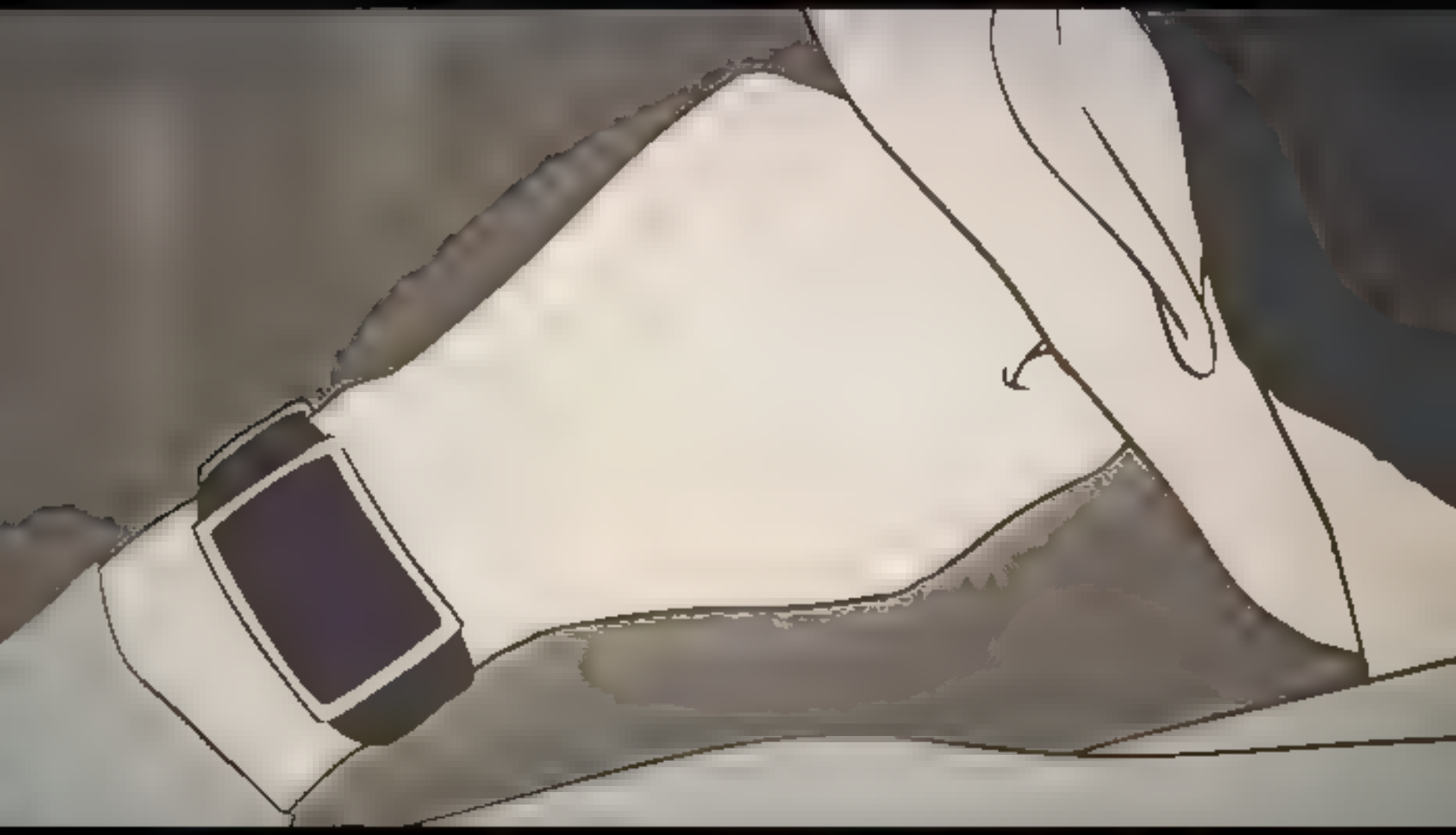
WHICH TAKES THE LIFESPAN OF WORTHLESS
ONES TO EXTEND THE LIFESPAN OF WORHTY
ONES."

I KNOW THAT WAS HARSH, BUT
YOU ARE A COMPLETELY WORTHLESS PERSON.
IT IS THE NATURAL ORDER OF THE UNIVERSE FOR WORTHLESS PEOPLE TO DISAPPEAR.

I'M DIZZY. VERY DIZZY.



MY NECK IS STIFF.
MY LEFT ARM IS ACHING.
MY VISION IS GOING BLURRY.



I'M NOT SURE WHETHER IT'S A STROKE,
A HEART ATTACK, ANGINA,
OR SOMETHING ELSE.

THE WATCH'S LIGHT IS FADING.
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE END FOR ME.

THEY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG...

TEARS POURED DOWN MY CHEEKS.

MY CHEST ACHED WITH THE PAIN OF KNOWING THAT THE TRAGIC FUTURE AWAITING THEM WAS MY FAULT.

SOB-
SOB-
HMM...

NOW I REALIZE,
YOU DO HAVE ONE THING
LEFT THAT'S WORTH
SELLING.
I CAME BACK TO MY SENSES
?!

AT WHAT HE SUDDENLY SAID,

IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SELL, BUT SINCE IT'S A DESPERATE SITUATION..

I STILL HAVE SOMETHING LEFT THAT I CAN SELL?

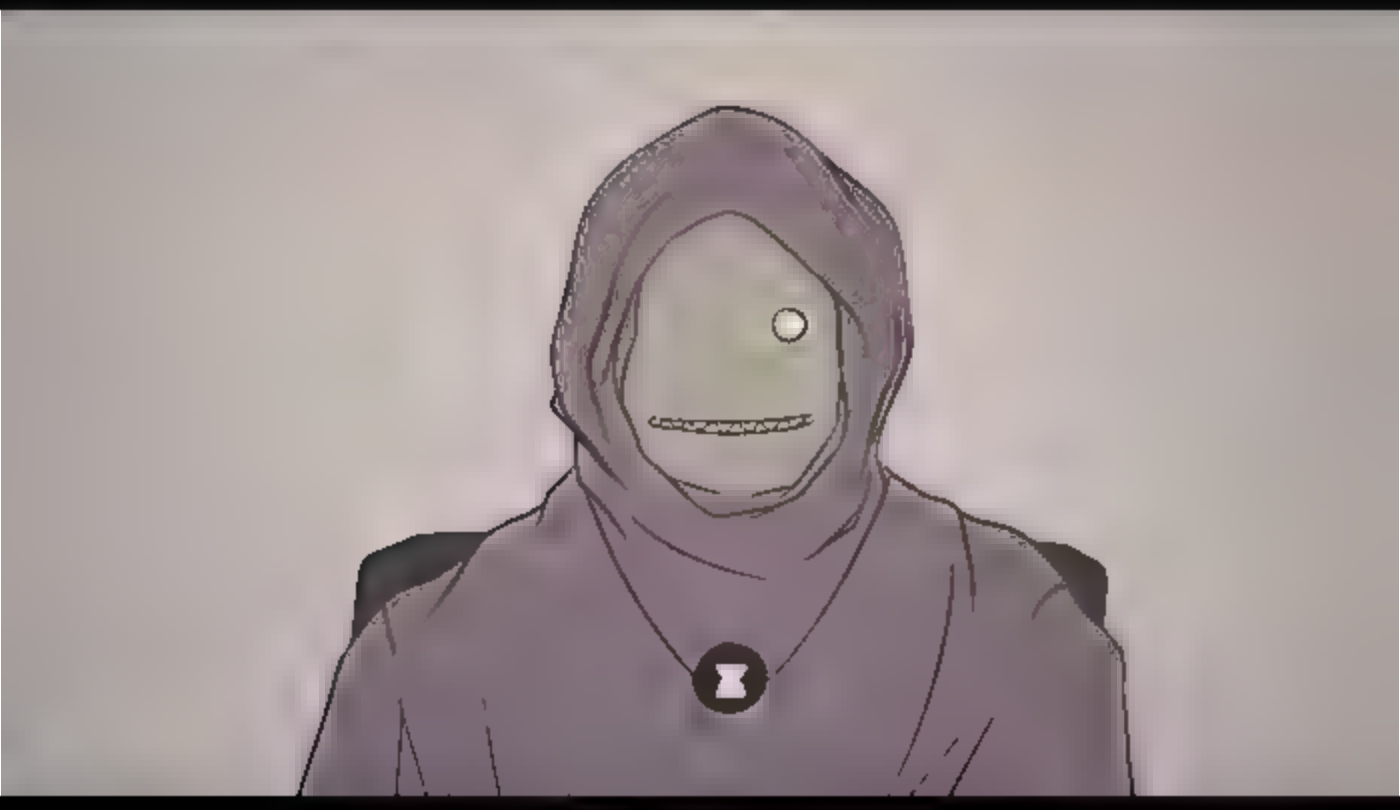
WHAT IS IT? WHAT COULD IT BE?
JUDGING FROM WHAT YOU JUST SAID...

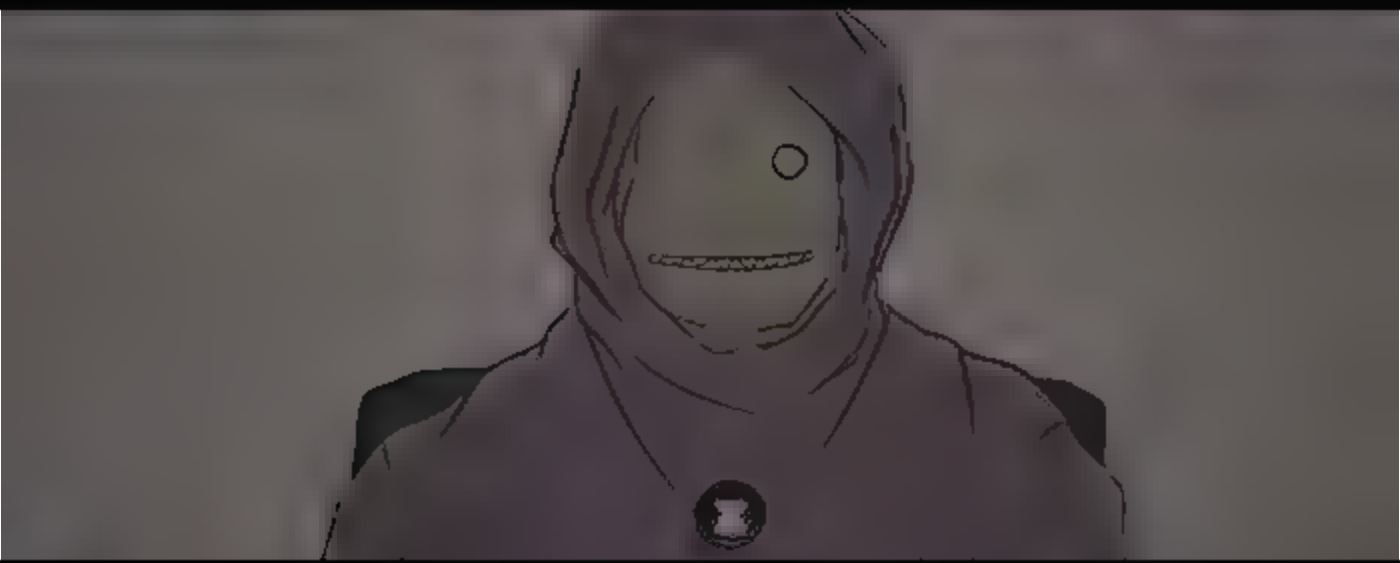
AHIII

IN AN INSTANT,
MY DESPAIR TURNED INTO HOPE.

THAT'S IT. I'M SAVED. I CAN SURVIVE!

I'LL BUY MORE LIFE FOR MYSELF WITH THAT!
I WANT TO SELL IT RIGHT NOW!





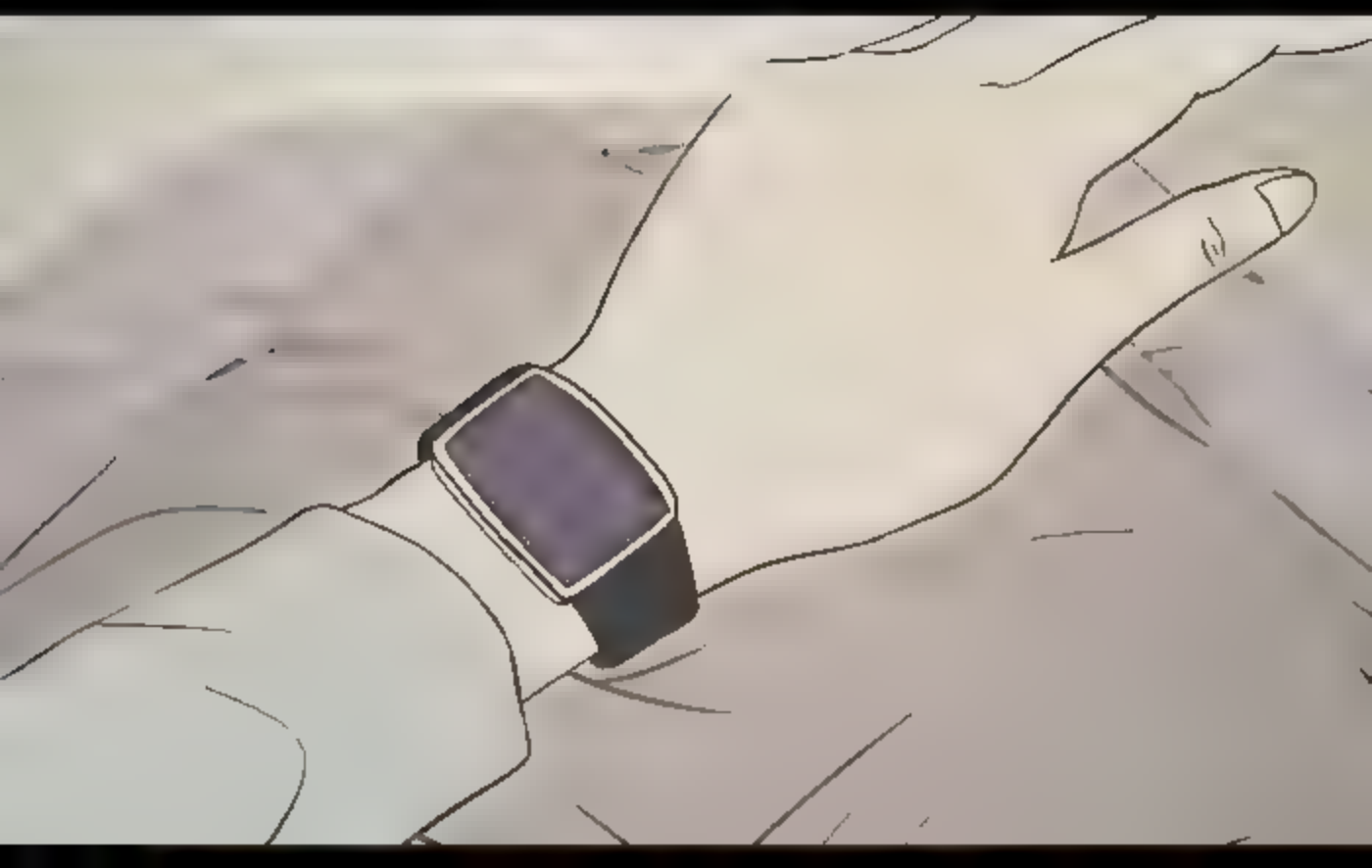
UHH....
UHHHHH....

UHHHH....
NO, PLEASE...

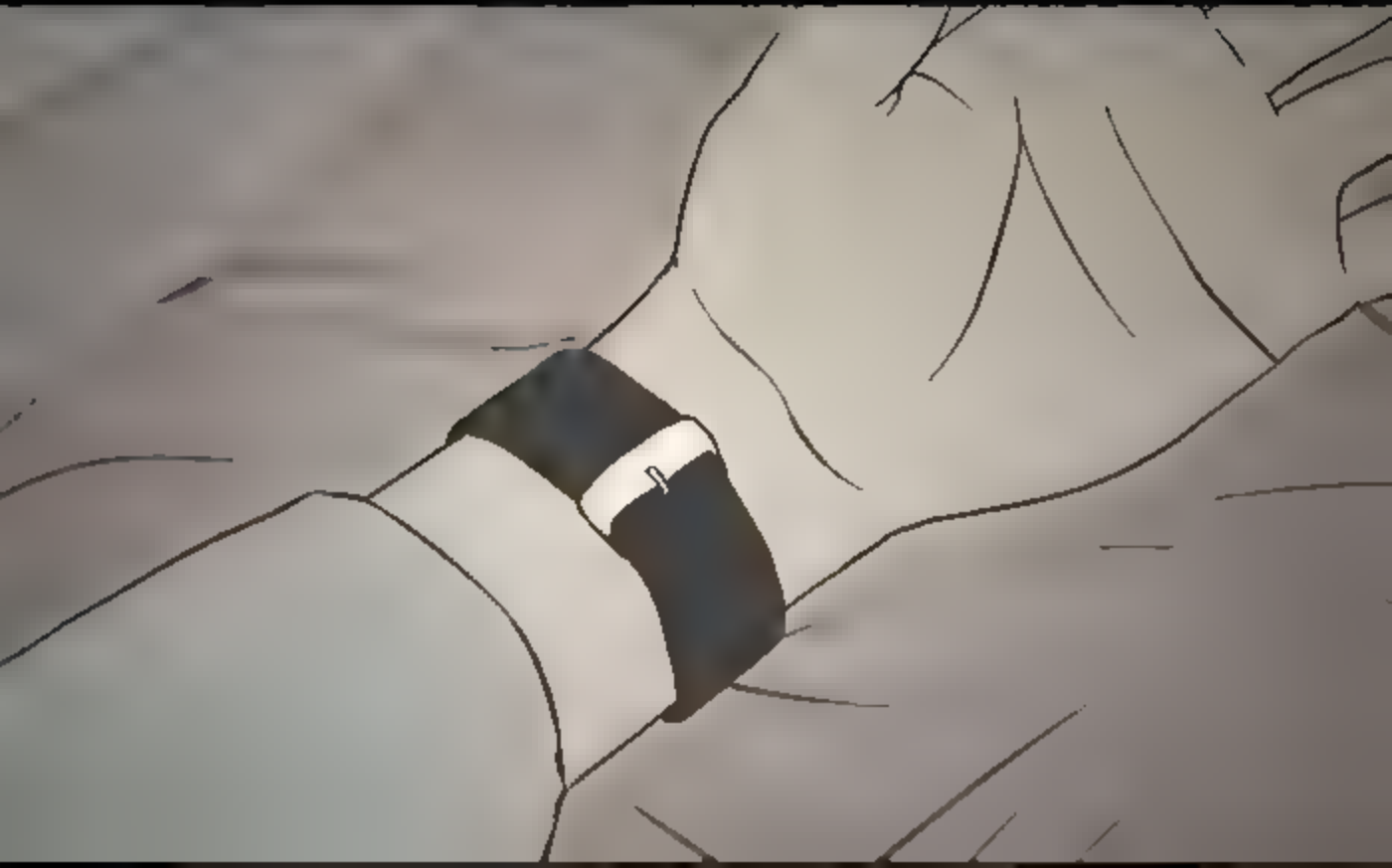
PLEASE,
JUST ONCE....
PLEEEAAASE!

I HAD A DREAM.

A LONG, VIVID AND
TERRIFYING DREAM



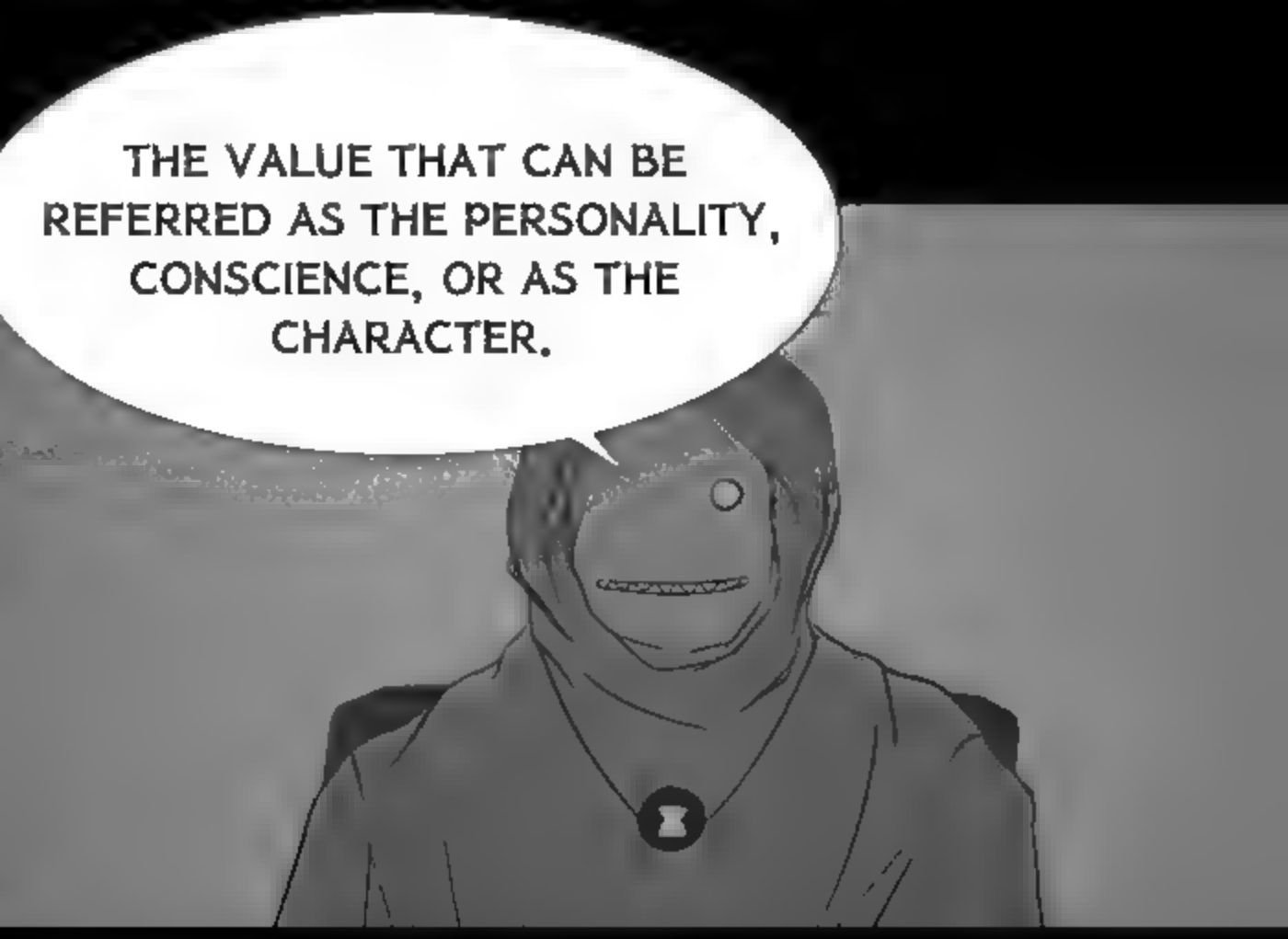
OF THERE BEING NO TOMORROW.
OF NOT BEING ABLE TO LIVE TOMORROW.



MY WATCH
IS GONE!

THE ONLY THING OF VALUE
THAT YOU HAD TO SELL,

HAS JUST
DISAPPEARED.



"BUT INSTEAD,
YOUR 'HUMANITY' JUST DISAPPEARED."

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS...

AND SO,

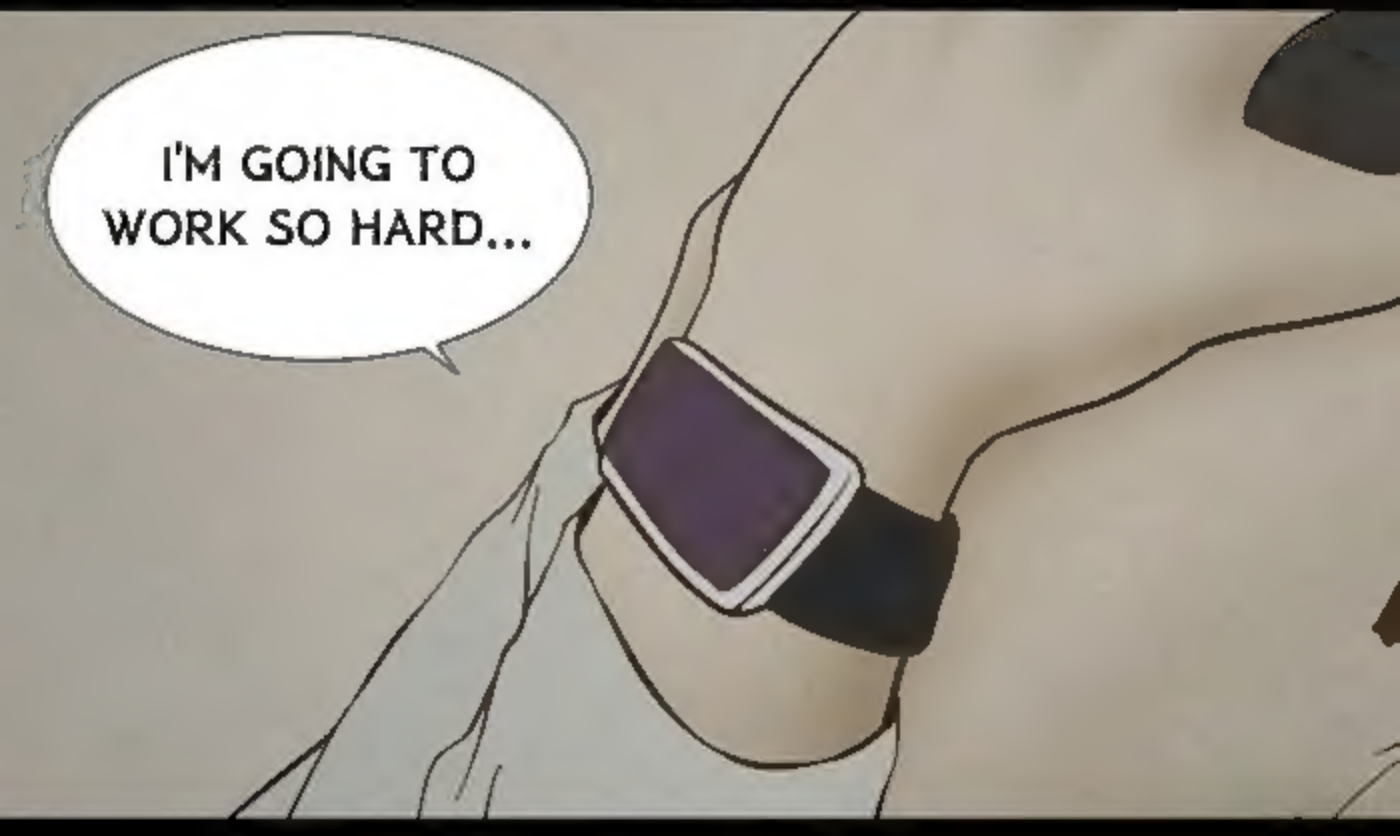
SCRAPING MY REMANING LIFETIME AND MAKING MY FINAL PURCHASE WAS A DREAM.

A DREAM THAT CONFUSED ME AS ALL OF THIS WAS A FLEETING DREAM,

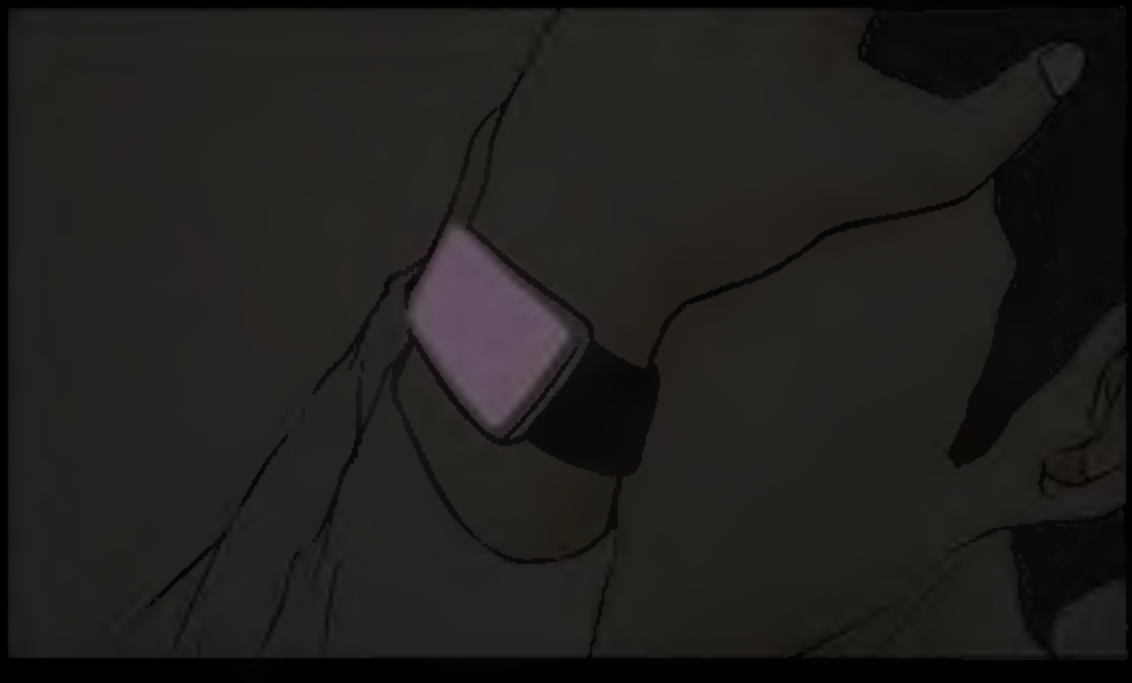
MANY PEOPLE 'DREAM' OF A
BRIGHT FUTURE AND SWEET SUCCESS,

AND WORK TO INCREASE THEIR OWN VALUE
IN ORDER TO MAKE THAT DREAM COME TRUE,

BUT AS ALWAYS,
AS I ALWAYS HAVE,



I POURED ALL OF MY LIFE



INTO LIVING A VAIN,

WORTHLESS TOMORROW.

THE TRADING CENTER. THE END.

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